

Training at global firms part of new push to grow S'pore nuclear talent

Initiatives to build manpower pipeline come as Republic studies nuclear energy option

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From 2027, public officers involved in Singapore's energy development will be able to experience what it is like to work in some of the world's leading nuclear energy organisations.

This is one of four initiatives to build a strong pipeline of nuclear energy manpower in Singapore announced on Oct 26 at the opening of the five-day Singapore International Energy Week conference at

Marina Bay Sands Expo & Convention Centre.

The Government will launch another two programmes for the private sector and international energy leaders. The fourth initiative is Singapore's first master's in nuclear engineering.

The slew of initiatives to build Singapore's pipeline of nuclear talent comes after the Republic announced in May that it will undergo a review by the UN's atomic watchdog in 2027. The review will help determine the Republic's readiness to make an informed decision on

the deployment of nuclear energy.

Minister for Energy, Trade and Industry (Energy and Industry) Tan See Leng said in his speech at the conference's launch: "Even as we prepare for the review mission, we are doubling down on building a pool of nuclear experts and professionals within Singapore."

Singapore has not made a decision on the deployment of nuclear energy. But it is studying this option closely.

He added: "Even if Singapore eventually decides not to deploy nuclear energy, the capabilities and expertise we are developing today will continue to serve us well, particularly as interest in nuclear energy grows across South-east Asia and the world."

The first scheme for public officers is called the Singapore Nuclear Manpower Development Programme.

It will expose public officers involved in the nation's energy development to jobs in leading global nuclear organisations. These range from nuclear technology developers to engineering, procurement and construction firms.

During the week, the Energy Market Authority (EMA) will be signing agreements with its first batch of partners.

They are Canadian engineering services and nuclear organisation AtkinsRealis, China National Nuclear Corporation Overseas, which exports the state's nuclear power plant technology, and American

nuclear reactor and fuel firm X-energy.

Through these partnerships, participants are expected to gain experience in areas such as technology assessment, project development, licensing and regulatory frameworks, said EMA and the Ministry of Energy, Trade and Industry (METI) in a separate statement.

The second scheme for the private sector is known as the Nuclear Manpower Development Programme (Industry).

This will fund workers from invited Singapore-based companies to join training programmes and industry attachments with trusted international partners.

"With growing interest in nuclear

energy globally, the nuclear industry could bring significant opportunities and new career pathways both domestically and internationally," said Tan.

Responding to queries from *The Straits Times*, an EMA spokesman said the scheme is intended for firms with "significant local presence", which could include foreign-owned companies operating in Singapore.

The Government will assess suitable firms based on several criteria, including their strategy and plans to participate in the nuclear sector.

The Government will also launch the Singapore Future Energy Fellowship from 2026 to draw international energy leaders to the Republic.

Appointed on a rolling basis without a fixed quota, fellows under the scheme will provide independent, strategic advice on Singapore's long-term energy strategy.

The first batch of fellows will comprise experts in nuclear energy to support Singapore's efforts to prepare for the 2027 assessment, EMA said.

Beyond advising policymakers, they will be tasked with spurring